

I am an NRCS employee working in California.

My comment is as follows:

The new farm bill needs to support agriculture by providing a path for new farmers to get into agriculture. I have been working for NRCS (SCS) in Siskiyou County for 25 years and I have watched many ranches go out of production agriculture during this time.

New farmers need to be strongly encouraged, and I don't mean lawyers who want a 'faux-chateau' and 10 acres of vineyard.

This is one of the most serious challenges we face in the US to agricultural sustainability and security. Please consider more loans and grants to allow new farmers to be "adopted" by established operations. I believe there are young farmers out there who feel that getting into ag. is too daunting financially. We can't have natural resource conservation if we don't have farmers to implement USDA programs and conserve our resources.

Thanks for listening.

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